

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 SNM-02 DEAE-00 /018 W

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R 020950Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9381

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR BM

SUBJ: NARCOTICS HELICOPTER PROJECT - TRAINING

REF: STATE 71195

1. REGRET PROBLEMS IN CONNECTION WITH ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY OF INITIAL TRAINEES. WE BELIEVE MOST HAVE A REASONABLY ADEQUATE BACKGROUND IN UNDERSTANDING AND READING ENGLISH, BUT BECAUSE OF LACK OF PRACTICE HAVE LIMITED ABILITY TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES IN ENGLISH, AND UNFORTUNATELY MOST OF THE TRAINING PERIODS ARE TOO SHORT TO ALLOW THEM TO GAIN ADDITIONAL COMPETENCE FROM PRACTICE. WE HAVE DISCUSSED PROBLEM WITH BURMA AIR FORCE, SUGGESTING ADDITIONAL INTENSIVE REFRESHER ENGLISH TRAINING BEFORE OTHER TRAINEES LEAVE. GIVEN TIME ELEMENT, HOWEVER, ALL EXCEPT POSSIBLY PILOTS WILL PROBABLY STILL NEED AN INTERPRETER OR OTHER HELP, BUT HAVE HAD NO OPPORTUNITY YET TO INTERVIEW THEM. WILL ADMINISTER ALIGU TEST TO REMAINING TRAINEES - REPORTING RESULTS AND POSSIBLE PROBLEMS.

2. BAF IS FAVORABLE TO EXTENDING TRAINCQG PERIOD OF THE THREE TECHNICAL MAINTENANCE OFFICERS AS SUGGESTED REFTTEL. HOWEVER, THERE IS A CUMBERSOME BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS OF OBTAINING THE NECESSARY GUB APPROVALS, AND BAF IS NOT YET CERTAIN WHETHER THIS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IN TIME. WILL ADVISE NOT LATER THAN COB APRIL 4.

3. PROVIDED APPROVAL IS FORTHCOMING, BAF REQUESTS THAT ONE OF THE MAINTENANCE OFFICERS (CAPT. TIN NYUNT) GO TO LYCOMING TO JOIN AND

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HELP INTERPRET FOR THE FIVE TRAINEES THERE, WHILE THE OTHER TWO

REMAIN IN FORT WORTH. BAF BELIEVES THE LYCOMING TRAINING WOULD
BE BENEFICIAL TO TIN NYUNT IN VIEW OF HIS FUTURE ASSIGNMENT,
AND THAT HE WOULD BE BETTER QUALIFIED TO ASSIST THE OTHER
TRAINEES THAN A NON-TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED MAN FROM BURMESE
MILATT'S OFFICE OR OTHER INTERPRETER.
OSBORN

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